

National Republican

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.

TUESDAY MORNING.—JANUARY 25, 1863.

One Year, 1000 D., New Penna. A. V.

W. J. MURTAGH : Editor and Proprietor

We cannot undertake to return rejected contributions. Contributors will therefore present their manuscripts.

All communications, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to W. J. MURTAGH, Proprietor, NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, Washington, D. C.

RECEPTIONS.

Mrs. GRANT'S RECEPTIONS.

Mr. Grant's receptions will be held every Tuesday during the season, between the hours of 2 and 4 p. m.

SPEECHES BLAINE'S RECEPTIONS.

The receptions of the speaker of the House of Representatives will be at his residence, 805 Fifteenth street, from 8 to 11 o'clock on each Friday evening of the season.

MRS. BLAINE'S RECEPTIONS.

Mrs. Blaine's receptions will be held every Wednesday of the season, between the hours of 2 and 5 p. m.

DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

At the Russian Legation Madame de Calzany will receive on alternate Monday evenings, commencing on Monday, January 3, and will be at home on Saturdays, from 2 until 3 p. m.

WE ARE REQUESTED to state that in consequence of necessary repairs, there will be no evening receptions at the British Legation until special invitations are issued.

THE PECULIARITIES OF OUR COMMERCE WITH CANADA.

The Hon. Wm. Anwand, in his argument before the Committee of Ways and Means, stated that if the present high duty on Nova Scotia coal was to be continued, the Government of the Dominion would probably place a duty on coal and wheat imported from the United States and Canada. With our examinations of the official returns we might be inclined to conclude that the quantities of these articles sent from the United States into Canada were too limited to be worthy of attention. Such, however, is not the fact.

The gold value of wheat purchased in the United States during the year ending June 30, 1862, and sent into Canada for consumption and collection, amounted to nearly four millions of dollars. We quote from the official returns the quantities of wheat and breadstuffs imported into Canada proper, free of duty, from the United States during the year:

Wheat.	2,784,750	\$200,000
Indian corn.	214,523	200,000
Other grains.	16,967	200,000
Flour (wheat).	11,208	40,000
Indian meal.		0
Other free goods.		0

Total from goods... \$21,273,375

In the face of the fact that Canada is one of the best wheat-growing countries in the world, it is a little curious that we should annually send nearly \$4,000,000 worth of wheat into that country, and that we should sell to them breadstuffs, including wheat, amounting to little less than \$6,000,000. Yet such is the case, according to the official returns. The explanations lies in the fact that Canada sends us their flour and buys our Western red wheat.

There is another anomaly in our trade with the Colonies. They annually buy from us more coal than we send to them. Here are the returns for the year ending June 30, 1862:

Exp. to Canada, tons, 262,371. Value \$1,055,118
Imp. from Canada, tons, 357,183. Value \$60,073

Diff. in favor of U. S., \$2,284.

Here we have the fact presented that while we pay the colonies annually only \$200,571 for the item of coal, Canada pays us over a half millions of dollars for that article.

There is another fact worthy of note in this connection. The colonies send to us more coal than we do of anthracite coal, according to the returns.

In connection with the application from Nova Scotia for a reduction of our duties on their coal, are not the facts presented in the foregoing returns worthy of consideration? Canada receives from us coal to the value of \$1,553,115 annually, on which there is no duty. We receive from the colonies coal to the value of only \$200,571, on which we collect a duty of \$1.25 per ton, or gold, which is deducted from the amount of coal above. Canada buys from us wheat and other breadstuffs annually to the value of \$4,982,580, on which they charge no duty; and altogether they buy from us annually over four millions of dollars' worth of goods which are passed through their custom-houses free of duty. Can we not, in these facts, throw off at least one-half of the duty imposed upon their coal, the total annual importation of which amounts to only a trifle over half a million of dollars in value? Outside of the transaction in breadstuffs with Canada proper, Nova Scotia purchases from us in 1862 about to the value of \$1,260,070. In 1860 the amount was probably larger, but the returns have not yet been received. That little province pays us twice the amount for coal than we our flour, but we tax her coal one hundred per cent. Its value at the pit's mouth!

Commercially this is a policy of questionable propriety, when practiced toward our northern neighbors. Politically, it is very unsafe. They and we both feel the necessity of a union of the two countries. But any attempt to starve or force the people of the colonies into these relations will be attended with the most unfortunate results. Give Nova Scotia a reduction of duty on her coal, give Prince Edward's Island a reduction of duty on her potatoes, and Newfoundland a reduction of duty on fish, and we show to them a special appreciation of their necessities, and afford to their commerce with us an evidence of far greater advantages of annexation and absolute equality. It will, of course, be for the Committee of Ways and Means and for Congress to say how far the duty on those items should be reduced. The best results would come from the removal of one half the duty on fish, and the transfer of coal and potatoes to the free list. Give the experiment a year's trial. The result will be more than satisfactory. Annexation sentiments will, in consequence, be largely extended and intensified. Continue those duties as they are at present, and the Dominion will retaliate in February by imposing duties on coal, wheat, flour, and other free goods, and the people of the colonies will naturally grow less and less attached to our Government, and more determined to rally together and work out their own independence and the problem of a new nationality. Consolidation, not starvation, must be our policy if we look toward annexation.

THE PLIA OF REBEL AUTHORITY AS A JUSTIFICATION.—The Supreme Court of the United States yesterday decided, Mr. Justice Swayne delivering the opinion, that the idea of authority conferred by the Confederate States for the indictment and arrest of persons was no defense in an action for damages resulting from such proceedings. This decision was in the case of Hickman *v.* Bett and others, who, as officers of court and grand juries, had indicted and arrested the plaintiff for treason against the Confederate States. The cause came from the Circuit Court for the Northern District of Alabama, where the acts complained of were done during the war. The court held that the authority of the Confederate States was a justification. This court reversed the judgment and remanded the cause.

Internal Revenue Frauds in the Indian Country.

The course of the revenue department in causing seizures to be made, under the direction of Supervisor John McDonald, of illiterate manufactured tobacco in the Indian nation, seems to meet with general approval. For some time past, the Government has been largely defrauded of its revenue upon tobacco manufactured by Indians in the section of country where these seizures were made, which it is now hoped will be recovered by the action thus commenced to secure an enforcement of the law without discrimination.

The plan set up by those engaged in the illicit traffic is that by treaty stipulation there was an exemption from internal taxation upon articles manufactured within the Indian territory. But the idea that the Government will suffer the cloak of an Indian treaty to cover up stupendous frauds for the commission of which there is no color or authority is preposterous in itself. For, by the internal revenue act of 1862, it is provided that the tax upon tobacco and spirits should extend indiscriminately to every section of territory within the limits of the United States, and no exception is made as in cases of other articles, in favor of the manufacture of Indians.

We understand that the department sustains the conduct of General McDonald, who is at present in this city, with his assistant, Colonel Joyce, in connection with this matter.

Some idea of the magnitude of these frauds may be had when it is considered that the tax upon the tobacco which has already been manufactured within the past two years amounts to upwards of two millions of dollars. The gross average of tobacco manufactured daily by the establishments which were taken possession of is said to amount to ten thousand pounds. In one factory alone, employing fifty hands, there was turned out daily an average of five thousand pounds. The judicial officers in Arkansas now have the master in charge, and it is hoped that there will be enforcement of the provisions of the statute to the full extent.

We observe, by the way, that a Western contemporary speaks of the necessity for the establishment of a territorial government in the nation, and suggesting the location of the Indians upon homesteads, under auspices of Congressional legislation. In view of the fact that the President is about to call the Indian nation into an assessment and collection district, as announced by us yesterday, it may be that a protection of the best interests of the Government will render necessary the adoption of some such measure as an early day.

PERSONNEL.

Major Bowes left for New York on Saturday, and is expected to return to-day.

Dr. H. C. Craig is being prominently used and urged by his friends for the postmastership of Georgetown.

Commissioner Delano expects to leave here to-morrow or Tuesday for his home at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and will be absent a week or ten days.

COLORADO MINES.

The Helmsley Silver Mining Company, of Georgetown, Colorado.

We have been informed that the directors of the Helmsley Silver Mining Company, of this city, had meeting at their offices in May's building, corner of Seventh and E. Franklin, to consider propositions from the New Mexico Mining Association, a company organized and in active working operation at Georgetown, for concentrating the silver ores of that region.

This company proposes to take into consideration the before mentioned to concentrate not less than 10 tons of its ore daily, at a reduction of 66 per cent, per ton, (from \$200 to the price), provided it can be supplied with not less than 30 tons daily.

The Helmsley Company has ordered the execution of a contract to supply the company with 10 tons of its ore daily, from the date of May 1, 1863, produced from the shaft of a single vein without interfering with the progress of their own mining.

The President and his able assistants are regarding this as a remedy for the present, and expect to have it in operation by the first of next month.

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